

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Medical instrument with a shaft, a handle mounted on the proximal end of the shaft, and a tool mounted on the distal end of the shaft and activated by the handle, where the handle and the tool are in active connection by means of at least one activation rod and the tool can be secured detachably by means of a tool shaft on the activation rod, for which purpose the tool shaft and the activation rod have protuberances and/or recesses, which can be joined in a form-locking connection, at least partially with corresponding recesses or protuberances of the other respective component wherein the recesses and protuberances corresponding to one another are configured in such a way that the tool and the activation rod can be brought into engagement with one another by means of a movement exclusively in one direction essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod, and the components coupled to one another are nonmoveably fixed relative to one another in the other all directions other than the one direction essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod.
2. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the tool can be secured to the activation rod in such a way that forces can be transmitted in the longitudinal direction of the activation rod and/or torsion forces can be transmitted to the tool.

3. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 2, wherein the tool and the activation rod can be connected with one another by means of a motion essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod.
4. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 3, wherein the activation rod and the tool shaft are configured as essentially round in cross-section.
5. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 4, wherein in the area of the distal end of the round activation rod at least on one side a tangential leveling is formed on the activation rod in such a way that the distal end of the activation rod further has a head area overhanging the leveling in radial direction and the proximal area of the tool shaft has an overlap for receiving the head area of the activation rod and a recess corresponding to the tangential leveling of the activation rod.
6. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 5, wherein the tangential leveling of the activation rod is configured as a middle stud leveled from two opposite sides and the corresponding recess on the tool shaft is configured as a radial slit.
7. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 6, wherein the activation rod and the tool can be coupled to one another by means of at least one stud running diagonally to the instrument longitudinal axis, where the stud on the one hand is stored in a hold bored in the activation rod or in the tool shaft and on the other hand engages in a corresponding recess in the tool shaft or in the activation rod.

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8. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 7, wherein, for the transmission of pulling or pushing forces in the coupling area, a spring element is placed between the activation rod and the tool.
9. (previously presented) Medical instrument according to claim 8, wherein the tool can be activated by means of the spring element.